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Tinker, tailor, senator, spy writer

Two senators are hoping their just-released spy novel has broad bipartisan appeal.

Colorado Democrat Gary Hart and Maine Republican William Cohen hit on the idea for *The Double Man* at a July 1980 Senate session.

"It was one of those two-day sessions just after we came back from the July 4 recess," Cohen said Wednesday. "We were getting coffee to keep awake in the early morning, and we got into a discussion of other interests."

They scribbled notes on a manila envelope and finished the narrative in fall 1981.

The Double Man is about a mythical senator from Connecticut whose life is threatened when he learns too much about the inner workings of the CIA and KGB.

Hart, a former member of the Intelligence Committee, said he had "some lingering questions about terrorism and intelligence work and how things can go wrong."

Hart, 47, said the writing was "a great adventure and a great deal of fun."

Cohen, 44, says writing is his hobby. "I don't play tennis or golf, so what form of relief and relaxation I get is from my writing."

The Double Man (Morrow,

\$16.95) received a mixed review in *Publishers Weekly*: "Cohen and Hart have produced a creditable first novel. The plot is better than the

stolid telling ... But the authors' credentials — and the wonder of their collaboration in the first place — should assure attention and sales."